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COLLEGE REPORTER.

VOL. I.

ORONO NOV. 14 1874.

NO. II.

Poetry.

OUTSIDE THE CAR WINDOWS.

BY M.E.P.

As onward swiftly speeds the train,
The landscape backward flies again.
As stream and field and hill and plain
Are mingled like life's joy and pain.

A quiet farmhouse first is seen,
Wide-spreading trees before the door;
A dimpled babe, with face serene,
Peeping its mother's shoulder o'er.

Sweet, smiling valleys sloping down
To where, beside the river's brink,
Far from the dusty, noisy town,
The drowsy cattle come to drink.

White clouds are floating overhead;
The trees hang out their banners red,
Which, like the fatal hectic flush,
Proclaim aloud, " 'Tis life's last blush!"

A busy mill, with whirling wheels,
And workmen hurrying back and forth.
A church, whose vane that points due
north,
Tells of the wind from cotton fields.

A churchyard still, whose inmates' sleep
So still, unbroken, and so deep,
We think of, and we sigh, alas,
As swiftly out of sight we pass.

"Oh for one hour of rest like theirs!
Rest from life's wearying toil and care,
That follow closely everywhere,
And cling to us despite our prayers."

A schoolhouse and the school just out,
A motley throng of boys and girls;
Black eyes and blue, and tossing curls
And merry laugh, and ringing shout.

We think of that old hackneyed phrase
Which charmed us in our childish days;
"Perchance some lad before us there
May fill the Presidential chair."

The spires of the city next;
And as the train glides slowly in,
By hackmen's cries our ears are vexed,
An unintelligible din.

THE RANKING SYSTEM.

One of the first enquiries that is made concerning a young man after he leaves College is in regard to his rank, and the relative position which he held in his class. From the answer to this question, the public in general forms its idea of his abilities, and predicts the success which will attend him through life; with a certainty however, which is surely questionable to one who is familiar with the ranking system as it is practised in most of our institutions of learning.

However perfect it may be, and with what care and attention the ablest instructors can bestow upon it, it falls far short of its object, and often leads to disastrous results. Abundant proof of this is found in the records of the graduates of every college, which show that rank is no index of ability, that after a class leaves the halls of its Alma Mater, the leader no longer retains his superiority, and that quite as often some one who was considered only mediocre in his abilities proves the more successful.

That something of the kind is necessary to preserve discipline, and to determine the proper positions of students in their studies, is evident; but whether this is secured by the present daily ranking system, without leading to results that are prejudicial to educational interests, is yet an open question. That it has a tendency to destroy all capacity among students to seek knowledge for its own sake, is a fact that its strongest advocates do

not deny, but rather seek to conceal by setting forth the better scholarship which they claim it secures. At the expense, however, of much valuable time that might be devoted to reading and original investigations, expended in dozing over lessons already committed. Not all of a good, sound education can be obtained in the classroom, by any means; else what need for the costly libraries found in connection with all colleges.

Some of the best educated men that ever lived never saw the inside of college walls. When a young man enters college he is supposed, or ought to be, old enough to realize the full meaning of a four year's course of study and it would seem that no such puerile incentive as the one under consideration, would be necessary to call forth his most earnest exertions.

Another important fact that should be noticed in connection with this subject, is that no teacher, however well disposed, can mark fairly.

It requires a knowledge of human nature more extensive than that possessed by the ordinary class of men, to determine the true position of every student in a class.

The adoption of such means by institutions that have for their object the education of young men, reduces them almost to the level of ordinary high schools. The President of Cornell University, in a recent report, states, "that one of the special features of the course, is the absence of a marking system determining the relative rank of each student in his class."

From this it will be seen, that in that institution, one of the largest and best conducted of its kind, the absence of that feature which appears so prominently in the government of most colleges is regarded a special feature of the course. The results which have thus far attended this change are entirely satisfactory, and should receive the earnest attention of all interested in educational affairs.

College Reporter.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY DURING THE COLLEGE YEAR.

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That long contemplated sidewalk has at length been commenced by the College authorities, and will be extended as far as the residence of Supt. Farrington, this fall; its completion however, rests entirely with the citizens of Orono, as the condition of the College finances will hardly admit of the expense necessary to extend it to the village. Students, as well as others who have had occasion to visit the College during particular seasons of the year, when the soil is rendered excessively humid by diminutive floods, will recognize the benefits to be derived from this by pedestrians.

In view of this fact it may be well to state, that in all probability the walk would have been constructed by the town's people, before this, had the course of the students in regard to public and private property been strictly what it should have been.

Thus far, the citizens of Orono have manifested a warm interest in the College, and have taken no small part in the exertions which have raised it to its present position; and it is hardly just to repay this by foolish acts of boyish mischief that can only serve to annoy. The owners of property along the street can not surely be expected to bear the expense of a walk, erected almost solely for the use of those who have no respect for the

rights of others. Let us work for our own interests in the future, and see that nothing is done that will reflect discredit upon the institution or upon ourselves.

OUTSIDE VIEWS.

The prevailing idea outside the immediate vicinity of this College, that young men who come here for the purpose of acquiring an education, are simply taught the arts relating to "Seed time and harvest," is proving sadly deleterious to the interest of the institution. It not only proves a great drawback to its growth in dissuading many from taking advantage of the opportunity thus presented, but seriously affects the prosperity of the Alumni who go out from its fostering shelter to seek employment in the different branches of business for which they have fitted themselves.

If one who has pursued the necessary course of study and graduated as Civil Engineer applies for a situation he is invariably asked the question: "at what place were you schooled as Engineer?" And if he answers: "at the Maine Agricultural College," he is probably obliged to look elsewhere for that with which to buy his daily bread.

But, on the other hand, if another gentleman no more prepossessing than the first, on being asked the same question, should answer, "at the Boston School of Technology," though his head be as hollow as an empty fish barrel, he is at once employed on a liberal salary. Those too, who graduate in the Elective Course, have the same difficulties to contend with.

The same opinion, that a student from an Agricultural College can know little of anything except to till the soil, is again met and we are obliged again to take the outside track and claim our place only when we have fairly won it. Thus it is that the Engineers and Electives of the State Colleges suffer from the Agricultural department—not that we would, were it possible, have that course abolished or im-

paired in any way, for it is one of the best and most important branches in the College, and there are those here today, pursuing it that will do honor to their calling, and some day make the barren fields of Maine, grow rich with the golden harvest.

But if the tastes of some do not lead them in that direction, if in their generosity, the citizens of Maine have established courses in the mechanic arts, and invited young men to pursue them, why discourage their present efforts and cripple their future prosperity by bringing the two branches so nearly into one?

Why not take measures to put us (if we deserve it) on an equal footing with the graduates of other colleges?

Let the name of the institution be changed so as to give to the engineering and literary departments, the emphasis they merit; and the good results will more than pay for the trouble.

SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATIONS ON MOUNT KATAHDIN.

PROF. M. C. FERNALD.

A year ago last August, accompanied by Mr. F. W. Hardy of Bangor, photographer, Mr. F. W. Holt, Mr. J. M. Oak and Mr. F. L. Scribner, graduates of the Maine State College, Mr. Freeland Jones and Mr. A. M. Goodale, students in the College, the writer visited Mount Katahdin with a view to determine its altitude by barometrical observations. In the limited time then at his command he found it impracticable to secure a number of observations sufficient to give a determination of the altitude which he was willing to make public. Last summer (August, 1874,) he made a second visit to the mountain, with the same purpose as before, the results of which are presented in this article. Besides the writer, the party consisted of Mr. J. R. Farrington, farm superintendant of the State College, Rev. W. R. Cross, J. C. Wilson, Esq, and Lieut. W. S. Chaplain of Orono, Mr. F. W. Hardy, and Capt. R. W. Parker, of Bangor, Mr. C. O. Farrington of Brewer, Mr. F. L. Scribner of Augusta, and Mr. J. C. Stacy, of Sherman, guide.

Leaving Orono on the morning of the 11th of August, the party tented near the summit on the night of the 14th, and remained at the mountain until the afternoon of the 18th of August, Mr. Scribner examining attentively the flora of the region and making botanical collections, and the writer devoting himself to the barometrical work. It is but just to the other gentlemen of the party to state that they rendered material assistance in the prosecution of the several kinds of work proposed.

Two barometers were used, one on the summit, the other at a station of known elevation about 36 miles from the mountain. The barometer (No. 1939) at the latter station was observed by B. F. Fernald, Esq., of Winn, in whose office it was suspended. The barometer at the summit of the mountain, although not originally designed for a mountain barometer, is so well provided with movable jackets of brass, by which the tube and cistern can be completely protected, as to fit it admirably for mountain use. The two instruments were carefully compared before and after the observations and were found in both instances to be working perfectly, varying only by a slight difference in the adjustment of the scales.

At the summit forty-three observations were obtained, three of which have been rejected because not matched at Winn, and thirteen, in consequence of meteorological conditions so different at the two stations, as to produce local disturbance of the mercurial column.

In the case of the observations submitted, the temperature of the instrument being considered, the movements of the column at the two stations were quite largely responsive to one another, indicating that they were controlled in the main by corresponding conditions of the atmosphere.

The meteorological notes recorded at the time, although few in number, indicated the same fact.

The mean latitude of the two stations is approximately $45^{\circ} 40'$.

Assuming the observations to have the same degree of precision, the arithmetical mean of the altitude is 5215.5 feet, and the probable error 4.2 feet; and hence the altitude of Katahdin deduced from these observations, would be written 5215.5 plus or

minus 4.2 feet above mean tide at Bangor. In furnishing for publication this record of barometrical work, the writer is not unmindful of the fact that a much larger number of observations is desirable, in order to secure the highest degree of accuracy attainable by the barometric method; he does not however hesitate to make even a brief contribution to the subject, since he is not aware that a determination of the altitude of Katahdin has before been made, based upon observations comparable in number with those it was his fortune to obtain.

THE CATALOGUES FOR 1874-5

have at length arrived, and but for one or two changes rendered necessary by the entrance of the last class, and the addition of a course in Chemistry, do not differ from those issued last year. The idea of placing the Freshmen between two divisions of the Sophomore class is certainly a novel one, and strongly suggests that the "fatherly care" of the Sophs has at length been recognized at headquarters.

Under "Special Features of the Course" so much stress is laid upon the farm, and the Agricultural department, that the reader gets the idea that agriculture engrosses the whole time and attention of every one, while Chemistry, and Engineering come in as sort of side shows, more or less of which it is necessary to know, in order to become a model farmer.

It is to be regretted that a more comprehensive report was not made upon those departments which constitute the greater part of the College.

—At a recent meeting of the Freshman class the following class officers were elected:

President, I. E. Webster Vice President, C. C. Chamberlain. Secretary H. A. Mallett. Treasurer, S. N. Miller Orator, H. A. Hinckley. Poetess, Miss Emma Brown. Prophet, E. C. Warner. Historian, H. H. Hartwell. Com. of arrangements, J. O. Richardson, E. M. Berry, O. C. Webster.

LOCALS.

—Hush it up.

—"There are no more honey."

—Stillwater's back is constantly elevated.

—Spring term commences, Tuesday February 2.

—Don't miss the "Sacred Concert" next Friday night.

—Query: Is the skeleton in the Natural History Room a somnambulist?

—The Dramatic entertainment recently given at the Town Hall, proved a success.

—WANTED immediately. A large number of first class "ponies". For particulars apply at headquarters of "nagging" department.

—C. E. Reed Asst. Eng'r U. S. A. who has been spending a short vacation at home, left last Monday for Detroit Mich. where he will stop this winter.

—Subscribers will please remember that after Jan. 1st. postage on all papers must be paid in advance, and govern themselves accordingly.

—Mr. F. L. Scribner has recently published the first part of his "Useful and Ornamental Plants". It consists of a neat pamphlet of about 125 pages, and reflects much credit on the author.

—Prof. James Law of Cornell University closed his lectures on the Veterinary Art on Tuesday last. They were delivered before the senior class in agriculture, and were reported for the Maine Farmer by W. H. Jordan.

—We regret that the preparations which were made for a mock trial, caused our friends at the village so much trouble. The shooting affray was gotten up for the occasion and proved an excellent tit-bit for the over anxious gossips.

—That gentleman of the Bangor paper who caused such a splurge about the "typographical blunder" in our first issue, would do well to look over that old arithmetic of his—especially the rule for United States money.

HONOR AMONG STUDENTS.

Honor among students means a great deal. We fear that the word as used in this connection has a significance not common to it in its true sense.

But what does it here signify? Now we know that this is a delicate subject to handle (rendered so by the very thing of which we are speaking) but we will attempt to give a definition of the term in its popular sense, and if we have a wrong conception of it we beg to be corrected.

All are aware of the feeling of mutual dependence which exists among students, a feeling that all belong to a common brotherhood, and that the interests of one are identical to a certain extent with those of the others.

We know also that from this there has come to be an unwritten code of laws in our colleges, although differing greatly, to which the students feel under obligations.

Now this is not to be objected if that code will stand the test that we would make for it. We hold that there are no social or moral conditions to be met with in college life which call for any other than the most manly and upright conduct, such as one would be willing to pursue anywhere and everywhere. Therefore if a student can follow this code and not sacrifice one iota of his manhood, let it stand.

But if it requires him to be untruthful; if it requires him to countenance mean tricks, drunkenness, rascally thefts or any improper thing without lifting a disapproving voice for fear of being unpopular; if it requires him to join in every demonstration of rebellion against the discipline of the college or even prevents his uniting his efforts with those of the faculty in maintaining the good order necessary for his best interests and those of the college, if in these or any other particulars it requires a violation of the dictates of a pure conscience, then let these false obligations go, and let each student act a manly part irrespective of popularity.

Will not the students of the State College think of this? Shall we not inaugurate a watchful care over our characters; and the character of the institution whose interests are dear to us, that we may have true honor, and that we and our college may be honored by all.

VISION.

And I——saw and heard a voice as if coming from the mouth of a — John saying good, good, good.

And a little farther on, and a manly form was seen by the wayside and lo and behold, a sheet was let down by its four corners, and another voice was heard saying "Arise, gird up thy loins and follow us into that land where there is no more Ranev —"

And they lifted him up and he did likewise, and the road that was crooked became straight; and when he was being borne upon this sheet, millions of little devils danced before his eyes and by them he was sorely tormented.

When I awoke, was it a dream?

— It is rumored that Rev. A. W. Reed intends resigning his position as Steward at the close of this term.

— It is not generally supposed that the Aborigines were very well versed in scientific matters, but a little occurrence that happened the other day would seem to disprove this. One of the members of the senior class in engineering while walking in a neighboring field, noticed upon a stone wall a rock that appeared covered with strange looking characters and figures, which upon closer inspection proved to be a complete solution of the "Double T shaped section", and what appeared more wonderful, the solution was identical in form and language with the one given by Prof. Rankine. Measures were taken to have the stone preserved at once, and exact copies of the inscription were taken, and can be seen upon application to any of the Seniors in Engineering.

— Owing to a lack of space we are not able to publish several valuable contributions which have been recently received.

— The morning drill under Prof. Chaplain is doing much to improve the general health and physique of the students. Ten minutes "double quick" increases the circulation wonderfully, these frosty mornings.

— E. H. Dakin has for sale some fine stereoscopic views of the College.

EUROPEAN & NORTH AMERICAN RAILWAY.

FALL ARRANGEMENTS. 1874.

Passenger trains leave Bangor for Orono, at 8.00 and 11.45 A. M., at 5.10 and 8.10 P. M.
Passenger trains leave Orono for Bangor, at 7.15 and 8.16 A. M., at 2.16 and 6.15 P. M.

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